GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1994
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2003
MOST BACKWARD DISTRICTS
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have analysed the causes and consequences of backwardness of most backward districts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to root out backwardness of these districts?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI U. V. KRISHNAM RAJU).

(a) & (b) A Committee (headed by Dr. E.A.S. Sarma, the then Principal Advisor,Planning Commission) was constituted in 1997 to, inter-alia, identify the 100 most backward and poorest districts in the country. The broad parameters adopted by the Committee to analyze the causes of backwardness, included indicators of deprivation (poverty ratio) and social and economic infrastructure. The Committee identified 100 most backward and poorest districts in the country. A State-wise list of these districts is annexed.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing programmes pertaining,inter-alia to poverty alleviation, employment generation, infrastructure development, watershed development, social security and land reforms, with a view to improve the quality of life in the rural areas and assist people below the poverty line. These programmes are being closely monitored and are being evaluated from time to time. The allocation driven programmes, having specific targets, are also being implemented in amongst other, these 100 most backward and poorest districts.

As per information received from Planning Commission, the Development andReform Facility (Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana) has been initiated in the Tenth Plan in order to help in the development of backward areas through schemes which will address the problems of low agricultural productivity, unemployment and fill critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure.

Annexure
Annexure as referred to in parts (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1994 due for reply on 4.3.2003.
List of Most Backward and Poorest Districts as identified by the Sarma Committee

S.No. Name of Districts
Bihar & Jharkhand
1 NALANDA
2 BHOJPUR
3 RANCHI
4 AURANGABAD
5 JEHANABAD
6 GAYA
7 NAWADA
8 SARAN
9 SIWAN
10 GOPALGANJ
11 PASHIM CHAMARAN
12 PURBA CHAMPARAN
13 SITAMARHI
14 MUZAFFARPUR
15 VAISHALI
16 BEGUSARAI

17 SAMASTIPUR
18 DARBHANGA
19 MADHUBANI
20 SAHARSA
21 MADHEPURA
22 PURNEA
23 KATIHAR
24 KHAGARIA
25 MUNGER
26 BHAGALPUR

27 GODDA
28 SAHIBGANJ
29 DUMKA
30 DEOGARH
31 GIRIDIH
32 HAZARIBAGH
33 PALAMAU
34 LOHARDAGGA
35 GUMLA
36 PACHIM SINGHBHUM
37 ARARIA
38 KISHANGANJ
Dadra & Nagar Haveli
39 DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI
Haryana
40 KAITHAL
Himachal Pradesh
41 HAMIRPUR
Karnataka
42 Bidar
Madhya Pradesh & Chattisgarh
43 TIKAMGARH
44 CHHATARPUR
45 PANNA
46 SAGAR
47 DAMOH
48 KHARGONE
49 KHANDWA
50 VIDISHA
51 SHEORE
52 RAISEN
53 BETUL
54 HOSHANGABAD
55 NARSIMHAPUR
56 MANDLA
57 CHHINDWARA
58 SEONI
59 BALAGHAT
60 RAJNANDGAON
61 SURGUJA
Maharashtra
62 AURANGABAD
63 JALNA
64 PARBHANI
65 BEED
66 NANDED
67 OSMANABAD
68 LATUR
69 BULDANA
70 GDADCHIROLI
71 YAVATMAL
Orissa
72 PHULBANI
73 KALAHANDI
74 KORAPUT
75 KEONJHAR
Rajasthan
76 DUNGARPUR
77 BANSWARA
Sikkim
78 WEST SIKKIM
79 SOUTH SIKKIM
Uttar Pradesh & Uttranchal
80 SITAPUR
81 HARDOI
82 UNNAO
83 RAE BARELI
84 JALAUN
85 LALITPUR
86 HAMIRPUR
87 BANDA
88 FATEHPUR
89 PRATAPGARH
90 BAHRAICH
91 BARABANKI
92 SIDHARTHNAGAR
93 MAHARAJGANJ
94 JHANSI
95 MAU
96 KANPUR DEHAT
West Bengal
97 KOOCH BEHAR
98 JALPAIGURI
99 MALDAH
100 DARJEELING